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MONTHLY



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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BULLETIN

Volume 54

Berkeley, Calif.

February 1972

Number 2

BIRD FILM TO HIGHLIGHT FEBRUARY MEETING

"The Winged World," an hour-long National Geographic Society film on the life of birds, will be shown at the February General Meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society. The film surveys bird life and manners around the world. Among the species included are the Ostrich, Manx Shearwater, Woodpecker Finch, Egyptian Vulture, hummingbirds, penguins, albatross and storks.

The meeting will be held Thursday, **February 10 at 7:30 P.M.** in the Rotary Natural Science Center, Lake Merritt, Oakland. Visitors are welcome.

AFRICAN WILDLIFE FILM

The fourth film in the 1971-72 Audubon Wildlife Film series will be Bower E. Rudrud's "Treasure of East Africa." It will be shown **Wednesday, February 23 at 8 P.M.** in the Oakland Auditorium Theater. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$1.50.

Bower E. Rudrud was born and still lives in North Dakota. He took up photography as a hobby while still in school, but it soon turned into a life's work. His interest in nature dates back even further, and now, both interests have merged in an especially fruitful way. Mr. Rudrud has made three trips to Africa to photograph wildlife. He has also filmed in the Caribbean and the Pacific. He holds the degree of Master of Photography, the Professional Photographers of America's highest award.

"Treasure of East Africa" begins in colorful Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, but soon moves to the nearby plains, where Masai tribesmen still tend their herds. The film shows the wildlife of this region and also that of the Lake George region of Uganda, the Manyara rain forest of Tanzania, Ngorongoro Crater, and the Serengeti Plains. Among the animals photographed are Thomson's gazelles, elephants, vervet monkey, cape buffalo, giraffe, hippos, kob, impala, bushbuck, zebra, wildebeest, rhinos, dik-dik, cheetah, leopards, lions and a spectacular array of birds. You may not be able to go on one of George Peyton's safaris, but you **can** surely see this film.

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

"Never a sparrow falleth but someone doth know," to paraphrase an old quotation. In this case it was Mrs. Carl Swendsen of Fulton St., San Francisco, who noticed that House Sparrows were nesting in the mercury vapor light standards and were regularly washed out and down the gutter whenever the units were cleaned. Her complaint reached your Conservation Chairman who forwarded it to Mr. Riley, the PG&E conservation officer. Here is the most gratifying sequel.

A PG&E work crew verified the complaint and placed obstructions to the birds on the Fulton Street lights. Moreover, they promised to install similar protective barriers in lamps of this type elsewhere as their servicing times come up. Now, can we say that big business has really gone over to the birds?

We received a reply from Secretary Michael K. Opsitnik of the California Rifle and Pistol Association after your Chairman took them to task for lobbying against the mountain lion bill, AB660 (which, incidentally, has been signed by Governor Reagan). Mr. Opsitnik claims that the sportsmen of California worked for years to take the lion out of the predator and bounty category, without assistance from Audubon or other conservation groups.

This association feels that the spokesmen and "lobbyists" for Audubon, the Sierra Club and other conservation groups are "total preservationists," anti-gun and anti-hunting. Though gratified that the California Mountain Lion has received the moratorium on hunting so many of us worked for, I for one do not want to be categorized as "anti-gun" and "anti-hunting." Such goals may be achieved in another generation when available wild lands and individual rights to hunt go down the drain. I feel they are premature now.

There is a mounting wave of feeling in this country that all raptors should eventually come under federal protection. While most of the states protect some raptors, many deny protection to other species. California law protects all birds of prey. The long, annual migrations of various hawk species across the midwest and eastern states expose them to hunters in many areas. Of course, if Congress should ever decide to give the birds of prey complete protection—excepting those individuals actually found molesting poultry or other livestock — it would have a herculean task impressing fish and game and federal enforcement agents in many sections that such laws meant business. The Feds have not done so well in protecting our eagles. Nor have the courts meted out meaningful punishment to violators. According to the Sierra Club Wildlife Committee Newsletter of November, from 1966 to 1970 eagle killers paid fines averaging only \$70, though maximum penalties provided for a \$500 fine and six month in jail.

As a refreshing change from the widespread persecution of so many of our remaining eagles, I call your attention to the remarkable success of Curator Gary Bogue and his associates at the Alex Lindsay Jr. Museum in Walnut Creek. With the cooperation of Regional Park naturalists, the two golden eagles they raised from sickly orphan eaglets were trained to hunt for themselves and finally released.

Just what did we, the people, salvage from the undistinguished session of the State Legislature that ended in December? We achieved some measure of control over new subdivisions in rural areas, increased gas taxes to finance rapid transit, lower noise limits for vehicles, better control of off-road vehicles on state lands, authority for environmental suits by the Attorney General and an oil drilling ban around coastal islands.

PAUL COVEL, *Conservation Chairman.*

ART PRINTS OF ENDANGERED BIRDS OF PREY

On display in our chapter office at 1749 Grove Street, Berkeley, is a set of four exceptionally handsome prints, reproduced from paintings by Hans J. Peeters. These prints have been issued in limited editions of 1,000. Each one is numbered and signed by the artist. They measure 15½" by 22". The quality of these reproductions is excellent.

Mr. Peeters has made these prints available for the rather attractive price of \$15.00 each. What is more, he has offered to donate one-third of the total dollar value of any order placed by a GGAS member to the Golden Gate Audubon Society. This is indeed a generous gesture.

Mr. Peeters is himself a GGAS member. He teaches biology at Chabot College in Hayward and is a painter of birds by avocation. His work has appeared in *The Auk*, *Audubon* magazine and *The Condor*. He has also illustrated two books.

Mr. Peeters' favorite subject is birds of prey, and his admiration for these splendid creatures is matched by his concern over their decline. Those who make a visit to view these prints will find that the artist has given as much attention to the setting as he does to the bird depicted in it. Mr. Peeters feels that a bird is an integral part of the landscape, that each profoundly influences the other and therefore demands equal attention.

"Last Courtship," a study of a pair of Peregrine Falcons, shows a male swooping close by his mate in the vicinity of a now-abandoned eyrie somewhere on the northern California coast. "Northwester" illustrates a Pigeon Hawk resting on a piece of driftwood after having chased several flocks of sandpipers from the beach at Point Reyes. A Goshawk is the subject of "Windfall," a snow scene depicting the bird guarding the remains of a cottontail between the roots of a Coulter pine, felled by a storm during some previous winter. The fourth print depicts a Prairie Falcon and its chick at a cliff-ledge nest site in the vicinity of Big Sur.

Information on ordering these prints is available at the office.

NATURE CONSERVANCY TO BUY ELKHORN SLOUGH

The Nature Conservancy has announced plans to purchase 116 acres of "choice marsh" in upper Elkhorn Slough. According to William H. Pentony, Elkhorn Slough Project Chairman, the Conservancy has already received \$50,000 from a pioneer Carmel family. An additional \$100,000 must be raised to complete the purchase.

Elkhorn Slough, just inland from Moss Landing in Monterey, is one of the few remaining salt marshes along the California coast. If you would like to see it saved from the dragline and bulldozer, mail your tax deductible contribution to: The Nature Conservancy, Western Regional Office, 215 Market St., San Francisco, California 94105. Be sure to write "Elkhorn Slough Project" on your check. For further information, call (415) 989-3056.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Yellow-billed Loon, Dec. 3-5, reported by ER, JM, RJ, SW in Ballena Bay, Alameda, 30 feet from shore. They observed a large straw-colored bill with upturned lower mandible and straight upper mandible. For winter plumage see *Handbook of North American Birds*, edited by Ralph S. Palmer, Yale University, 1962.

Red-necked Grebe, Dec. 1, near Bay Bridge Toll Plaza, and Dec. 6, Berkeley Aquatic Park—AP. Additional observations to Dec. 28.

Harlequin Duck, Dec. 19, near Marconi Cove, Tomales Bay—PRBO Christmas Count.

Two *Hooded Mergansers*, Dec. 19, Lake Merritt—RJ. A female, Dec. 21, Jewel Lake, Tilden Park, eating bread with Mallards (as observed last winter)—LC.

Black-legged Kittiwake, Dec. 12, Bay Farm Island, Alameda (apparently ill)—ER, RJ.

Two *Yellow-shafted Flickers*, Nov. 12, Golden Gate Park Arboretum—Aubrey Burns.

Pileated Woodpecker, Dec. 5, Lake Hennessey trip, lead by Dr. Curl—AP.

Dipper still in Sunol Valley Reg. Park, Dec. 7, 11—VH.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Dec. 26, 28, Notre Dame College, Belmont—RW, FN, LN.

Northern Shrike still at Palo Alto marsh, Dec. 11—FN, LN, FR.

Western Tanager, Dec. 3, Pacifica (bright red head)—DM.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Dec. 23-31, Pacifica (first-year male with rose wing linings and some rose on throat)—DM.

Slate-colored Junco, Dec. 18-Jan. 3, for 3rd winter, at feeder in Oakland hills—VH.

Harris' Sparrow, Dec. 19, near Rogers Ranch, Pt. Reyes—DE for PRBO Christmas Count. Observed there again Dec. 20, 21, 24, 31—BP et al.

White-throated Sparrow, Dec. 4, and two Dec. 11, 18, Richmond garden—AC, HLC. One Dec. 7-Jan. 3, at feeder in Oakland hills (previously wintered here in '57, '62, '63)—VH. One, Dec. 14, Golden Gate Park Arboretum—BP *et al.*

Lincoln Sparrow, Dec. 16, Big Springs creek trail, Tilden Park—JM. Observers: Aubrey Burns, Aileen Conn, H.L. Conn, Larry Curl, Dick Erickson, Richard Johnson, Diann MacRae, Joe Morlan, Fran Nelson, Leroy Nelson, Alan Pistorius, Bill Pursell, Florence Richardson, Elsie Roemer, Rich Walker, Steve Whitney.—VI HOMEM, *Observations Chairman*, 339-1886.

BIRDING CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

February is perhaps the best month to visit the fabulous Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region to see Whistling Swans and Sandhill Cranes. The trick is to find a day when the soup-like tule fog is not around. It not only severely obscures your vision, but it also freezes your innards. Even so, seeing the Delta through fog is better than not seeing it at all.

Last year my wife and I accompanied friends on a two-day trip to the region. Despite heavy fog, we had a splendid time watching the cranes perform their picturesque dance and the swans boldly dropping out of the sky in long lines to land on a nearby pond. Both these birds are spectacles unto themselves—huge, beautiful creatures which, somehow, one is amazed to find a few miles from Stockton.

One of our friends, however, though he loved the cranes and swans, was most impressed by the coots. This may seem silly if you've never seen the coots at the Delta on a cold winter's day, stretching in tens of thousands across an open expanse of field. A veritable infinity of coots, waddling about in the cold in typical coot fashion. I didn't know there were that many coots in the world. For sheer comic spectacle, a sea of coots is hard to beat.

I also suggest renting a boat and slowly cruising down the waterways. You will see countless owls in the trees, numerous hawks of several species, ducks, grebes, herons and bitterns.

If you are unfamiliar with the area, hop on the bus with Paul Covel on Sunday, February 13. Paul knows the region well and will provide a good introduction to newcomers. See January's *Gull* for details.

Another good place to see cranes and swans is in the field along state highway 4 between Byron and Stockton. According to Vi Homem, you can easily see the birds from the road. You also get to see Byron.

For other places to go in February, consult the field trips listed in this issue. In addition, the places listed in November and December's *Gulls* are still good in February.—STEVE WHITNEY, *Editor*.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

About 50 people turned out for a good day of birding at Conn Dam on December 6. Among the species seen were Pileated Woodpecker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Canada Goose and Hooded Merganser. Unfortunately, no Wood Ducks were seen. Leader: Larry Curl. —

A beautiful, sunny day greeted birders on the Bodega Bay trip of December 11. A total of 82 species were seen, including 2 Sora and 3

Virginia Rails in the swamp. Other species in various habitats: Common, Arctic, and Red-throated Loons; Common and White-winged Scoters; Snowy, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers; Ruddy and Black Turnstones; Black Oystercatcher; Rock Sandpiper; Surf Bird; and seven species of gulls, including Thayer's. Leader: Baron McLean.

FIELD TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 13—THE DELTA. To Thornton by bus to see the Sandhill Cranes and Whistling Swans. See the January *Gull* for details. Leader: Paul Covel.

Wednesday, February 16—COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK. Time: **9 A.M.** Place: big parking lot near the marsh. Directions: From the Nimitz freeway take the Jarvis Avenue exit. Drive west to Newark Blvd. (first signal). Turn right, drive about a mile, turn left on Patterson Ranch Road and proceed to the park. Bring scopes and lunch. Leader: Vi Homem (339-1886).

Saturday, February 19—GRIZZLY AND JOICE ISLANDS. Time: **9 A.M.** Place: parking lot at the Fairfield City Park on West Texas St. in Fairfield. Directions: drive to Fairfield via interstate 80. Bring lunch, warm clothing and friends. Leader: Warren Larsen (525-9149).

Sunday, February 27—GOLDEN GATE PARK. Time **9 A.M. to 12 noon**. Place: Chain of Lakes at 43rd Avenue and Fulton, San Francisco. Lunch optional. Leaders: Harriet Frazer and Eleanor Peterson.

Sunday, March 5—DRAKE'S ESTERO TRAIL. Time: **9 A.M.** Place: the Inverness Store, Inverness, California (park behind the store). The caravan to the starting point (near the old site of PRBO) will leave the store promptly at 9 A.M. Be prepared to walk several miles. Wear warm clothing. Bring lunch. Leader: Aileen Pierson (JU7-4163).

Dates to hold: Sunday, March 12, Tubbs Island; Saturday, March 18, Bodega Bay; Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, camping trip to Pinnacles National Monument; Saturday and Sunday, June 3 and 4, Yosemite (see below); Saturday and Sunday, June 17 and 18, Sierra Valley camping trip.

If you plan to go to Yosemite, make reservations at least 3 months in advance with the Yosemite Park and Curry Co., Yosemite National Park, California 95389. Campsites—\$4/day; tent-cabins—\$6/day; cabins without bath—\$6.50/day; cabins with bath—\$15/day; hotel room—\$17/day. More details later. Leader: George Peyton.

MANY THANKS

The Board of Directors of the Golden Gate Audubon Society would like to thank everyone who participated in the recent Oakland Christmas Count. Special thanks go to Garth Alton, who coordinated the count, to all the group leaders, and to Elsie Roemer, who did a great job organizing the Alameda part of the count. Elsie, who knows the Alameda area better than anyone, took the group leaders out to their areas *before* the count day in order to acquaint them with the places to look and birds to expect. As a result, Alameda yielded 118 species.

PEYTON PLANS THIRD AFRICAN SAFARI

The first two African eco-safaris, arranged by GGAS Vice-President

George Peyton, have been filled. Among the participants are many CGAS members. In response to popular demand, however, George has planned a third safari, which will meet in Nairobi, Kenya, on August 12, 1972. Like the first two safaris, this one will have a strong emphasis on birds and ecology and will also be limited to fifteen persons. Unlike the first two safaris, however, this one will permit interested participants to spend three additional weeks, either before or after the safari, visiting Europe, South America or other parts of Africa at no additional air fare. Anyone interested in this third safari, or in getting on the waiting list for possible cancellations on the first two safaris, should write: George Peyton, 4304 Adelaide St., Oakland, California 94619.

HAWAII TRIP PLANNED

Kathy and Bob Zedekar of the Sacramento Audubon Society will be taking eighteen people to the Hawaiian Islands from March 11 to March 20, 1972. The itinerary includes Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii. The trip will emphasize birds and plants, but there will also be time for shopping and swimming. Rental cars will be used for traveling about each island. Estimated cost: \$400 per person (subject to change). For further information, contact Kathy Zedekar, Field Trip Chairman, Sacramento Audubon Society, 3300 Moorewood Ct., Sacramento, California 95821 (Phone: 916 482-2294).

NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY OF ALUM ROCK PARK

The city of San Jose has asked Drs. Harvey and Hartesvelt of San Jose State College to compile a natural history survey of Alum Rock Park. They will be assisted by several graduate students in biology. The bird survey will be compiled by Michael Brady, a graduate student in Natural Science and a member of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. He will try to determine which birds inhabit the park, what areas each species is commonly found in and what time of year each is present. He would appreciate receiving any personal observations, bird lists or other references pertinent to the park. He can be reached at 321-7746 or 4050 Manzanita, Palo Alto 94306.

DE ANZA COLLEGE LIBRARY LOOKING FOR AUDUBONS

Gary Korn, Periodicals Librarian at De Anza College, is trying to complete the library's collection of *Audubon* magazine. He needs various copies from 1909 to 1969. If you would like to donate copies or if you know where Mr. Korn can find some, contact him at De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, California 95014. Phone: (408) 257-5550.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:

Chauncey and Gladys Giles

Charles Remmick, Jr.

Gift of:

Paul and Marion Covel

Douglas and Francis McCallum

A gift of remembrance was made to Audubon Nature Training:

In Memory of:

Freda Indrube

Gift of:

Terry Prothero

DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary and Memorial Fund Chairman*, 854 Longridge Road, Oakland, California 94610 (415-6267).



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THE GULL

February

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Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Send address changes to Membership Secretary promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings second Thursday 7:30 p.m. Joint membership,—Local & National \$12 per year, (individual); \$15 (family); includes *AUDUBON MAGAZINE* and *THE GULL*. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$2 per year.

High school & college student membership \$6 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.